

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for processing a separator page used for separating print jobs being output from a printer system, said method comprising:  
  
receiving an input separator page for use in identifying a  
10 first print job;  
  
determining if said input separator page contains any prior print job information;  
  
15 obscuring said prior print job information if said prior print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page; and  
  
printing current print job information on said input  
20 separator page thereby providing a first print job separator page.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said determining includes obtaining a bit map image of said input  
25 separator page.
3. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said determining is accomplished by scanning said input separator page using an optical scanning device.  
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4. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said determining is accomplished by obtaining a photo image of said input separator page.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including:

printing said first print job;

5 assembling said first print job with said first print job separator page; and

outputting said first print job with said first print job separator page from said printer.

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6. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including:

inputting said first print job separator page containing said first print job information for receiving by said

15 printer system for processing a second input separator page to be used to identify a second print job.

7. A storage medium including machine readable coded indicia, said storage medium being selectively coupled to a

20 reading device, said reading device being selectively coupled to processing circuitry within a computer system, said reading device being selectively operable to read said machine readable coded indicia and provide program signals representative thereof, said program signals being

25 selectively operable for enabling processing of separator pages used for separating print jobs being output from a printer system by effecting the steps of:

receiving an input separator page for use in identifying a

30 first print job;

determining if said input separator page contains any prior print job information;

obscuring said prior print job information if said prior print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page; and

5   printing current print job information on said input separator page thereby providing a first print job separator page.

8. The medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein said  
10   determining includes obtaining a bit map image of said input separator page.

9. The medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein said  
15   determining is accomplished by scanning said input separator page using an optical scanning device.

10. The medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein said  
20   determining is accomplished by obtaining a photo image of said input separator page.

11. The medium as set forth in claim 7 and further  
including:

printing said first print job;

25   assembling said first print job with said first print job separator page; and

30   outputting said first print job with said first print job separator page from said printer.

12. The medium as set forth in claim 7 and further including:

inputting said first print job separator page for receiving  
5 by said printer system for processing a second input  
separator page to be used to identify a second print job.

13. A printing system for processing separator pages used  
for separating print jobs being output from said printing  
10 system, said printing system comprising:

a printer device;

an input device for providing an input separator page to  
15 said printer for identifying a first print job;

an image acquisition device arranged between said input  
device and said printer device, said image acquisition  
device being operable for obtaining image information  
20 identifying information contained on said input separator  
page;

processing means coupled to said image acquisition device  
for determining if said input separator page contains any  
25 prior print job information, said printer device being  
operable for obscuring said prior print job information if  
said prior print job information is determined to be present  
on said input separator page, said printer device being  
operable for printing first print job information on said  
30 input separator page at a predetermined position relative to  
said obscured prior print job information thereby providing  
a first print job separator page.

14. The printing system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said image acquisition device is operable for obtaining a bit map image of said input separator page.

5 15. The printing system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said image acquisition device is an optical scanner.

16. The printing system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said image acquisition device is a digital camera.

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17. The printing system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said processing means is operable for comparing said image information contained on said input separator page with reference image information stored in memory.

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18. The printing system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said input device is operable for inputting said first print job separator page containing said first print job information to said printer system for processing a second input separator page to be used to identify a second print job.

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